

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Hastings, et al.)
APPLICATION NO.: Not yet assigned) **Certificate of Mailing**
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(Continuation of U.S. Application No.) EV 323776436 US in an envelope addressed to:
09/175,748, Filed October 20, 1998) Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450,
Examiner: R. Travers) Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on
Art Unit: 1617) February 18, 2004
Richard Zimmermann

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Continuation application filed herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

The **Remarks** section begins on page 5 of this Amendment.